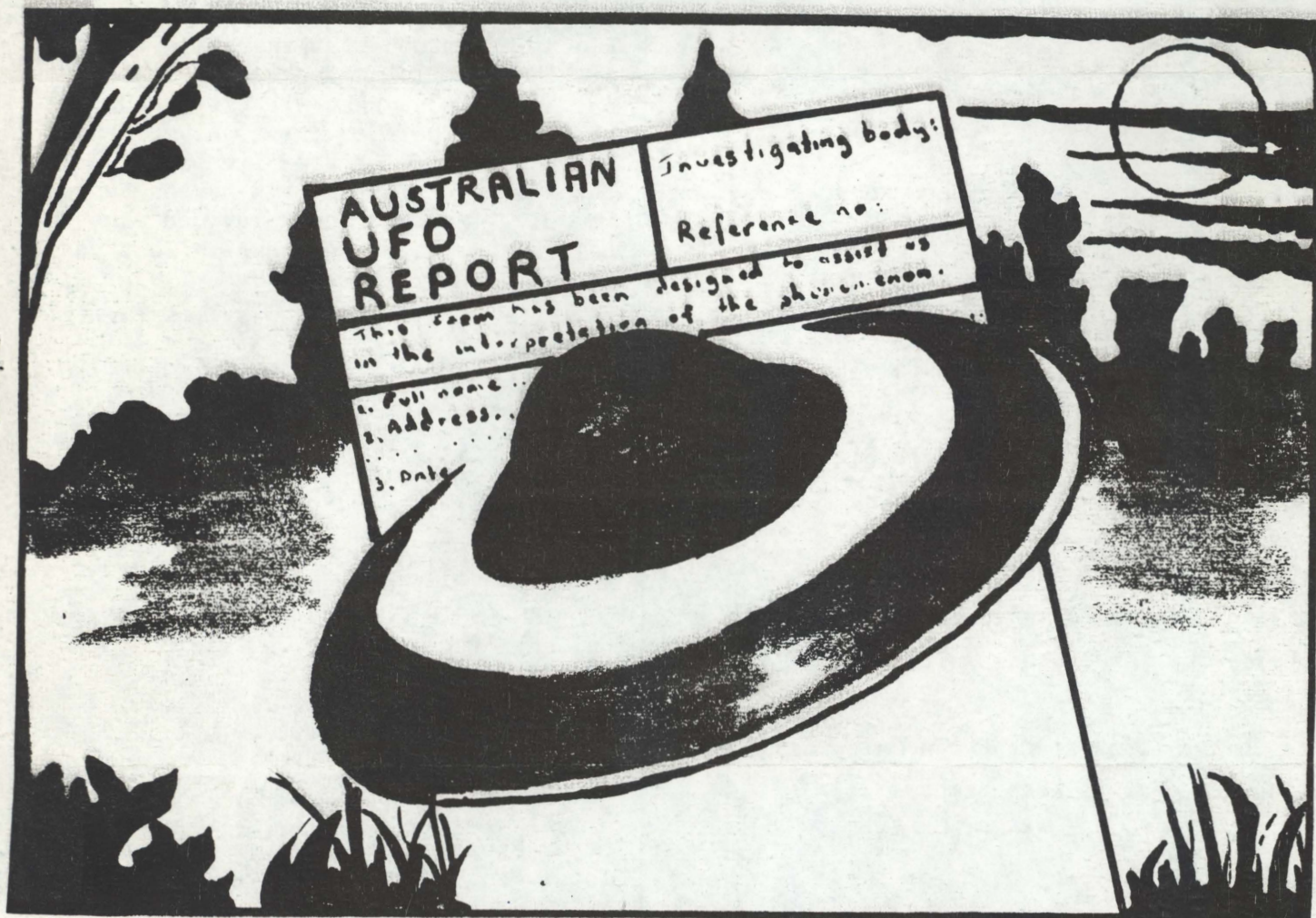


# UFO 1978

Tasmania

ARBETSGRUPPEN FÖR UFOLOGI



By the Tasmanian  
U.F.O. Investigation  
Centre T.U.F.O.I.C.



## T U F O I C - 1978

President .....

Neil Russel-Green.

Secretary.....

Keith Roberts

Liaison Officer....

Paul Jackson

Treasurer.....

Jan Drew

Committee.....

M. Lown, D. Harris, G. Marshall,  
C. Mortimer.

All correspondence to 366 Huon Road,  
South Hobart, Tasmania. 7000.

Sightings Phone 23 6009 or 27 8449.

Area Representatives .....

North .. John Dean, 200 Allanvale Rd.,  
Launceston. Ph: 26 3102.

West Coast .. Mrs. M. Harris, P.O.  
Box 582. Queenstown.  
Ph: 71 1466.

TUFOIC's Report is published annually,  
and is available to the public,  
members, and for exchange with UFO  
organisations.

The Centre also prints two newsletters  
during the year to keep members  
informed of ongoing sightings infor-  
mation. See the back page for the  
Application form to join the Centre.

DON'T FORGET, TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT  
TUFOIC.

Cover design: Jan Drew.

## YEAR'S SIGHTINGS STATISTICS

The Centre received 144 reports to inv-  
estigate during 1977 plus, as usual, a  
number of reports from earlier years. Quite  
often the old sightings fit in with pre-  
existing flap patterns.

During the first half of the year, Venus  
was the cause for many sightings, plus  
meteorite and space debris re-entries,  
which, on a number of occasions provided  
spectacular displays.

Some of the more unusual events in-  
cluded a possible electrical discharge at  
Rokeby after a January thunderstorm.  
Flocks of autumn starlings also created  
problems, whilst a Japanese Research vessel  
out in Storm Bay had witnesses and in-  
vestigators baffled for a while.

The bulk of the year's unexplained  
cases occurred in the six months February  
to July. May and June provided almost  
half of the year's unknowns. (last year  
it was Feb/March).

## INVESTIGATIONS..COMPARITIVE FIGURES.

Year	Reports	Unidentified	UFO%
1971	93	21	22
1972	65	13	20
1973	136	26	19
1974	157	52	33
1975	171	42	24
1976	184	38	21
1977	144	31	20

## ANALYSIS OF 1977 INVESTIGATIONS.

Unidentified.....	31
Investigating/Insufficient Info:..	13
Astronomical.....	42
Aircraft.....	22
Satellites.....	8
Ground Lights/cars/ships.....	11
Birds.....	5
Other Explanations.....	12
Total Investigations.....	144

## TUFOIC MEETING DATES 1978....

Meetings are held at Scots Church  
rooms, rear of Scots Church, Bathurst St.  
at 8 p.m. All prospective members and  
any persons with sighting information  
are welcome. Make a note now of the  
1978 dates.

February 10th.	August 11th.
April 14th.	October 13th.
June 9th.	December 1st.



UFO research has come a long way in the past 3 years, especially here in Australia. Gone are the days when the UFOlogist was looked upon as nothing more than a crackpot and a believer in little green men (an aspect that came more from Sci-Fi books than UFO researchers). These days, most of the crackpot element has gone looking for another cause, not finding what they were looking for within the UFO research organisations, this has left these groups to pursue a more open-minded and scientific approach to the study.

Today's UFOlogist should be likened to a private detective, for he has to interview witnesses and search for information in his continual quest for the answers behind the UFO phenomenon. Just as any scientist has a certain responsibility toward his particular field of endeavour, so too do we have a very big responsibility toward UFO research. It is not good enough to sit back and state that IT is all a load of Rubbish, you have to prove it, you must go out and investigate, not to prove your own or anyone else's theory but to find the truth, no matter what it may be; that is what scientific research is all about and that is what TUFOIC and groups like ours are here for, not to prove the existence of little green men.

Despite the claims made by some self-confessed UFO experts that they are manned craft from another planet, from another dimension or time travellers etc., and despite claims from debunkers that they are nothing more than hoax hallucination, psychological or natural phenomenon, the one plain fact remains and that is that we just do not know; if we did, you would not now be reading this magazine.

The UFO phenomenon exists, this is no longer the question, the question now is, What is behind it. The responsible UFO organisations, under the auspices of the Australian Co-Ordination section - Centre for UFO studies are all working together to find the answers, it is not in man's nature to let the unknown get the better of him, if it were, there would be little progress. We are making progress but it will take time, answers will not come overnight; with a responsible attitude, answers will be found.

Paul Jackson  
(Liaison Officer)

SIGHTINGS - 1977

The gradual easing in unexplained sightings since the "Great Flap" of 1974-75 has continued during 1977. The level of "close encounters" has likewise dropped.

The year commenced on low key with sightings at "background level". Activity near the end of 1976 had also been quiet with just a couple of car pace reports in November. Two "Close Encounters" were reported to the Centre early in the year but this was to be followed by an almost monotonous string of Nocturnal Lights cases.

Late March brought an interesting erratic whistling light at Mt. Stuart, then this was followed from the end of April until June by other merging and separating lights in Hobart and the surrounding area.

The Hobart sightings were one of the notable features of they year. Most years have seen just a few cases from the city, 1973 saw 7, but 1977 saw about double this figure, mostly about mid-year.

Publicity wise, the Centre received minor coverage in the first six months which enabled witnesses to contact the Centre on cases new and old. Often it has been said that publicity will create a flap. However, immediately following the run of mid-year cases the Centre received major coverage in a 30 minute TTV 6 programme on Tasmanian sightings. The programme which would have had a wide city and country audience did not spark off a rush of sightings. In fact sightings tailed off despite the unusually fine and mild weather that followed.

There has been low activity in country areas compared with earlier years. A few reports from the Tasman Peninsula at the end of May. Other isolated cases have occurred in the country but do not appear to fit any particular pattern at the present.



## A QUIET START TO THE YEAR

### Pipers River Report.

A sighting of lights at Pipers River on January 27th was the first unexplained case investigated by the Centre for 1977, it came via the Launceston Police Station.

John Dean (Northern Rep.) visited the farm 25kms north-east of Launceston some nights after the sighting. A light pointed out to him as the return of the object in fact turned out to be Venus. Venus was setting about 11p.m. and is not to be confused with the sighting which occurred between 11.30 p.m. and 4 a.m.

Peter Damon reported the sighting and was staying at the time with some friends on a farm. They were looking out for a light seen on earlier evenings; this had been the planet Venus.

About 11.30 p.m. two lights were seen to the west. A undulating humming noise was heard throughout the sighting, whilst the dogs on the farm ran up and down barking as if disturbed or frightened.

One of the lights was situated in a dip in the Den Range, it was red and moved up and down behind the range. The second light was more intriguing. It was larger and elliptical in shape with red and silver colours. It was much closer to the farm being about half a kilometre away. It appeared to be stationary over a ploughed paddock south west of the farm. It would fade out at times then reappear soon after.

A couple of witnesses decided to take their torches and have a closer look at the low-level UFO. It was not visible when they left the farm but when it reappeared they hurried back to the farm in a disturbed state.

Watching off and on the witnesses saw both lights fade out near dawn. The lower object being in front of the hills.

The Centre could find no satisfactory explanation to account for the lights. No traces were found in the paddocks.

### FIGURE SEEN AT SEVEN MILE BEACH.

The Centre's next report presented some problems due to delay before the investigation would be completed. Luckily one of the children involved was a daughter of the President Neil Russel-Green. Details of Michele's sighting were noted at the time but it was some time before we could track down other witnesses of the incident.

The sighting occurred at Seven Mile Beach on February 3rd about 9.30 p.m., the time was vital information with Hobart Airport so near. Contact with the Department of Transport - Air Transport Group revealed no air traffic movements, overflights, or RAAF manoeuvres in the state between 9 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. on the evening concerned.

The children aged about 10 or 11 were at a youth camp and had not met prior to the week's camp, or in fact been together afterwards so that a hoax would seem to be ruled out. The sighting was discussed at the time and this led to mention of other lights being seen but these checked out as aircraft in the area.

### The Sighting.

Michelle Russel-Green says she was going to have a wash about 9.30 p.m. when she heard a burring noise, looking up to the east she saw an object stationary, then moving behind trees in a northerly direction. She saw some other children looking at the object. She then went on her way to the washroom.

Michele wasn't sure who the other children were. The Centre after some time contacted Janine Horne. Other contacts uncovered reports of other lights seen that evening at 5 p.m., and again the following night. These lights were consistent with air traffic movements.

To Michele the object seemed close and at tree-top level. It was dome-shaped with what looked like a row of windows about the middle. A wider area of light, disc shaped, was spinning below. She also saw flashing white/yellow lights on the edge of the disc and a red light atop the dome. The body of the object may have been white of just reflecting the bright lights.

On one side of a centre window there looked to be a thin figure with a bump or rounded head. It seemed to be moving back and forth in the window.

### A second description.

About 9.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Janine Horne was outside when she saw the UFO above the trees to the east. It was like two saucers stuck together. It was spinning fast at first then it



slowed down and a figure was visible in what looked like a window near the object's centre.

The object moved south then returned to the north, a faint whining noise was heard as it went behind the trees.

The elliptical object had a row of windows across its top half. There was a red light on top with a green one below. A row of lights was visible across the centre.

The figure appeared to be thin with a largish rounded head above what looked like a high collar, it had an arm visible to the right. The figure moved its head and changed positions. The UFO went behind trees east of the witnesses.

#### Two more February Sightings.

Two more sightings of unexplained lights were received by the Centre before the close of February. The first on the 12th from Geilston Bay then on the 19th at Brighton.

It was a warm evening on the 12th and Mrs.L. Dienaar was on her front porch with two children seeking relief from the heat. A flash of light was noticed to the north west over Mt. Faulkner and a starlike white light appeared travelling south. A second later two other similar lights were seen following the first, one behind the other.

They moved South over the hills towards Mt Wellington. Giving the impression they were above and well beyond the hills. The leading light paused and the following lights merged with it. The single light now changed brightness and moved up vertically at great speed and then faded out. The lights were in view for about a minute.

This was to be a first of a number of merging, separating erratic lights reported over the Hobart suburbs between February and July.

#### Brighton.

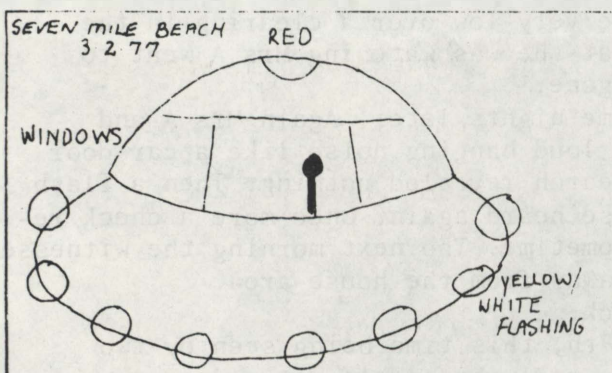
A week later Miss R of Brighton was out early at 4.30am to prepare her horse for the day's show jumping. She left the house and at once her attention was caught by a brilliant circle of steady orange lights.

From our on-the-spot investigation it seems the lights were about a kilometre away and 300mts off the ground near the Brighton Army Camp. The lights may have covered an area of 10 to 15mts.

The lights moved south west very slowly maintaining the same elevation. They stopped, 2 or 3 times then passed in front of Jews Hill. (310mts, 4km away). Next the lights speeded up and diminished to a dot as if receding to the south west. Finally the lights grew in size again (but not as large as when first seen) as they came back northwards. They passed out of sight behind hills to the south of Miss R. The Lights had been in the area for 3 minutes. The farm dogs with the witness and her horse showed no reaction to the lights.

The sky was overcast with cloud about 1200mts. Enquiries revealed that Brighton Army Camp received some calls about lights over the camp early that morning, none of the callers left their names.

Miss R also saw a misty beam near the lights but this may have been from the camp security lights, although the beam went off when the lights moved away. A commonsense investigation has left us with a puzzling case, the Centre's records show sightings in the same locale in 1971(Brighton Army Camp) and 1973 (Jews Hill).

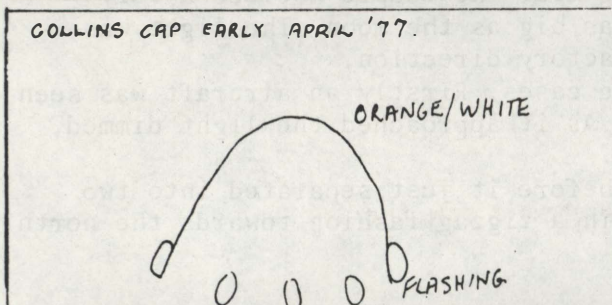


#### Erratic Lights at Mt. Stuart.

A call from the Hobart Police alerted the Centre to the possible sighting of a nocturnal light at Mt Stuart on the evening of March 28th. Keith Roberts was on the scene in under an hour but nothing further was observed. The weather was mostly cloudy with a few clear patches. An item in the "Mercury" the following day brought a number of callers and it seemed that at least three of these had indeed seen something strange.

Our initial witness, a Mt Stuart student, was just returning home at 6.55pm when he noticed a moon sized round ball to the west. It had red, orange, and purple colours all merging together. The ball was travelling south and within 15 seconds had moved behind Knocklofty. Seconds later it reappeared going north at great speed.

The ball was gone in a few seconds but made a third and final appearance going back to the South. This time it seemed lower and closer and a whistling





## ERRATIC LIGHTS (Cont.)

sound was heard by the student. Again it was lost to view behind Knocklofty.

### A Second Witness.

It seems that Mrs Carr of New Town may have seen the same light, she placed the time of her sighting as 6.56pm. She heard a crackling noise from outside and went to her front door.

On going to the front door Mrs Carr noticed the hall was flooded with an orange glow from outside. Once outside she was surprised to see to the west a moon sized orange apricot coloured ball of light. It darted away to the north, then seemed to come back towards to witness and pause. Mrs Carr felt as if she was enveloped by an orange beam or glow for a second or two. Then the light shot off in a flash towards Mt. Direction. The incident lasted for some 5 or 6 seconds.

Almost to the minute a Howrah caller told of a light flashing south over Mt. Nelson, whilst other witnesses from Ranelagh and Sandy Bay noticed something was heading south across the sky. The Ranelagh caller was looking east towards Hobart.

### Light Returns?

Paul Gourlay of Mt Stuart had been to a nearby home and was just leaving with his father at 7.30pm. when they saw what was taken at first as being plane lights to the east.

The light was yellow to white in colour and losing height as it moved south over Bellerive. (Investigation shows it may have been a lot closer). The light then went away downriver. Paul got into the back of his father's utility prior to their departure.

As his father backed the utility out Paul saw the light coming back up the river (north) in a zigzag manner. A second time the light departed to the south still zigzagging. Then looking larger ( $\frac{1}{4}$  moon sized), rounded with a small tail it came north once more.

The light slowed as it gained elevation and passed over houses at Mt Stuart some  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilometre from the witness. Paul feels sure he could hear a vibrating whistle at this stage. The light had been in the area for 3 to 5 minutes.

The Centre received other calls that evening from West Hobart and later Sandy Bay describing similar sightings although on these occasions the reports could have been meteorites.

### Collins Cap.

The flow of sightings to the Centre had picked up and with it came two more unexplained reports in early April. One case was from Collins Cap some 12 kmts north west of Hobart, It is an area of steep bush-covered hills and small farms backing onto the Wellington Range.

Mrs A was watching TV about 11.30pm with lights off and curtains open. It was a fine clear night. She first noticed the UFO due to its flashing lights over trees north west of the farm. She didn't take much interest until after the final TV programme, then she went to the window for a better look.

The UFO appeared as a dome shaped area of bright orange-white light with about 6 flashing white lights beneath. The object which had been stationary now started to angle down to the north dropping behind trees on the hillside. It had an apparent  $\frac{1}{4}$  moon size. The descent took 10 minutes then the UFO looked to be very low over a clearing in the light timber some 380mts away. Unable to make out what she was watching Mrs A went to call her husband but on their return the lights had gone.

Another strange event took place at the farm some nights later. Again Mrs A and her husband were watching TV about 11pm. This time a loud banging noise like a car door being shut was heard outside the kitchen window. A search revealed nothing. Then a flash of squarish light was seen at the window and the noise heard again. Once more a check revealed nothing. The noise was heard off and on for sometime. The next morning the witnesses found that the ducks, cattle and dogs had all moved away from the house area.

### Erratic Lights Back.

Hobart's erratic light was back again on April 7th, this time being seen by two Montrose witnesses about 6.20pm. During their evening meal the couple noticed a very large silver light, much bigger than a star but not as big as the moon. The light was stationary to the north roughly over the Cadbury's Factory direction.

Two events occurred that added strangeness to the cases. Firstly an aircraft was seen heading towards Hobart Airport across the clear sky. As it approached the light dimmed, then became quite bright once the plane had departed.

The light had been visible for about 5 minutes before it just separated into two smaller lights which flew off at considerable speed in a zigzag fashion towards the north



## ERRATIC LIGHTS (Cont.)

east.

The similarity between this report and the Mt Stuart zigzagging light, and other sightings that followed were quite marked. Zigzag movement, separating and merging lights in most reports.

### A FLAP DEVELOPS

A lull for the rest of April following the Montrose case preceeded an increase of sightings by late May.

The early house of April 30th brought a report from Lenah Valley, the lone witness returning home glimpsed an area of light seemingly above anearby gully. He stopped his car and returned to the sighting point. A disc-shaped areaof white light with red flashing lights at each end was observed. The object with a glow below remained stationary over a gully in front of Mt Wellington. After 5 minutes and with no further traffic about the witness left the area.

### A Busy Evening.

The evening of May 8th brought two, possibly 3 unidentified reports within 40 minutes.

Initially three Kingston witnesses noticed a very bright white light low towards Mt. Wellington, the witnesses went outside to watch the light for 4 minutes. It was losing elevation as it crossed in front of the mountain's southern slopes, then on a steady course moved low over the bush-covered hills near the Hobart Waterworks. It appeared to go out of sight behind the hills. A similar report came from the Ridgeway area on June 1st but due to inconclusive details the report was of low value.

Another report in which follow up was not possible also came on the evening of the 8th, this time from South Hobart. A large white light was seen passing from Mt Wellington towards Lenah Valley. One wonders if there was a connection between the Kingston and following New Town report.

Mr. J. Carroll was driving north on Main Rd, New Town at 8.20pm when he first saw a large round white light approaching from the direction of Lenah Valley. The light was heading on a North Easterly course that took it across the road ahead at light aircraft speed. Once across the road the light seemed to curve more to the north and became stationary over the Risdon Zinc Works area.

The witness stopped his car and tried to wave down other witnesses, a task he was unsuccessful at. He watched the light for some 8 minutes as it remained in the sky prior to fading out. Just before it disappeared, two smaller fluorescent type lights separated from the original light and went away to the north.

### Port Huon.

As our run of mid-year sightings continued they appeared to spread to one or two country locations, the first being on May 21st from Port Huon. Chris Geeves (13) reported seeing three large orange lights to the east of his home. The Central light was much larger than the two flanking lights. They were seen approaching Port Huon over the Huon River then they receded towards the Cygnet direction and went behind the hills.

Chris called his mother but she onlyhad a brief glimpse of some lights. Chris kept watch and saw the lights reappear from behind the hills on two more occasions over the next couple of minutes.

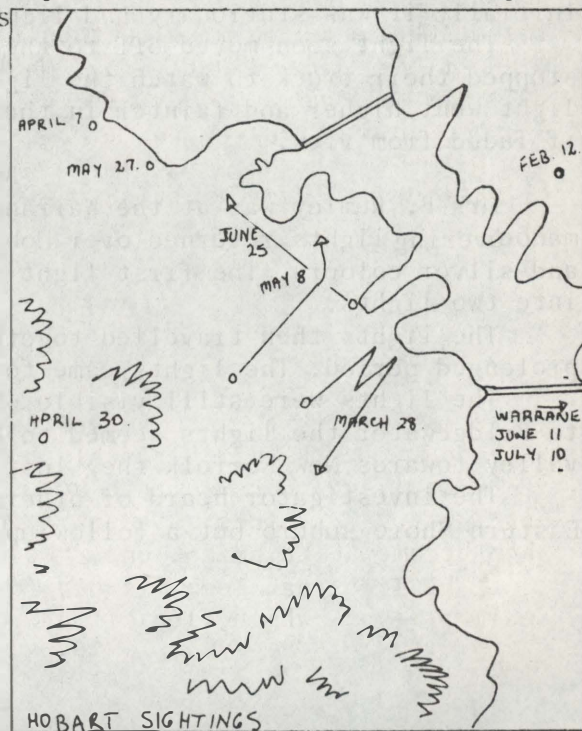
### SIGHTINGS SPREAD

The close of May saw sightings spread to the Tasman Peninsula district following yet another "nocturnal light" report from Mr and Mrs Oakley of Glenorchy.

Mrs Oakley was up early about 4.30am and noticed a very bright white light stationary in the sky north of Mt Direction. It became larger and brighter until it looked like a headlight in the sky. The light was level with the top of Mt Direction and remained in that position for 4 minutes. Then it faded or seemed to turn away from the witnesses.

The light disappeared by moving off to the south east and losing elevation. It passed in front of Mt Direction before being obscured by trees.

The following reports seemed to move away from the Hobart area although there were still a few more cases to come to hand.





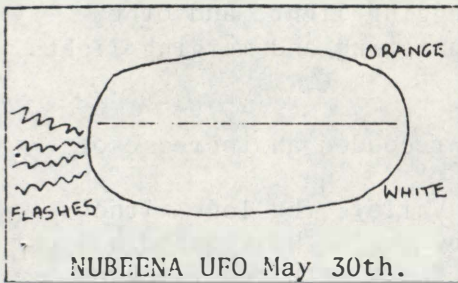
## SIGHTINGS SPREAD

### Tasman Peninsula.

The night following the Glenorchy report (May 28th) the UFO's moved to the Tasman Peninsula, why is another question.

A couple of witnesses saw a large amber light between the hills north east of Port Arthur. It would blink off every three minutes then re-appear. The light which looked large and round eventually moved slowly off to the north east.

The main Tasman sighting occurred on May 30th.



Mr. O. Bitterman was returning home to Nubeena, it was 6.25pm as he neared his home. At first he thought there was something wrong with his car's electronics as the area was lit up by a series of blue flashes. At the same time another resident also saw the blue flashes.

Meanwhile Bitterman noticed an elliptical shaped object in the south eastern sky, it seemed to be the source of the flashes of blue. The object was moving slowly across Storm Bay. It was a bright orange and white with a flash every few minutes from the rear of the object.

Arriving home Mr Bitterman called out to his wife to view the UFO, still visible going away to the northwest. The UFO was in view for some considerable time (25 mins.) before it was lost from sight behind Mt Communication. About the same time a neighbour said his TV set suffered from interference; of course this may have no connection with the UFO but it is a point of some interest.

### The Same Night.

The same evening as the Nubeena case the same of similar light was seen from Port Arthur. The witness could not recall the exact time of the sighting but the bright glowing white light was in the north west sky towards Nubeena. The object was sending out bright shafts of light and seemed to be growing in size. Our witness looked away briefly and when he looked back there was nothing to be seen.

A lone witness out shooting near Opposum Bay that night at 10.30pm also saw a strange light, it came over the hills from the east. The light was estimated as being only 10mts off the ground and passed 400 mts to the north of the 14 year old witness.

The "nocturnal light" looked like a silver soccer ball edged with red and with a red tail or cone behind. It was heading towards the Derwent River and passed silently out over the river. Once to the west the tail could no longer be seen. Then it seemed to rise and disappear in the hills near Blackmans Bay. The sighting lasted several minutes.

### Last Case.

Details of the last Tasman Peninsula case came from Mr G. Batchelor, he told of seeing a large white light low over Norfolk Bay about 9pm on June 1st. He was in the company of a second witness.

The witnesses were travelling from Taranna to Nubeena when they noticed a near moon-sized light to their north. It looked to be 20mts above the water and 1½ kmts distant. Initially it was stationary and lighting up the water beneath.

The light soon moved off to the west gaining elevation as it went. The witnesses stopped their truck to watch the light, which they estimated as now doing 160kph. The light went higher and fainter in the distance and after being watched for 6 or 7 minutes it faded from view.

### Back to the City.

Mrs B. Rumley was at the Warrane Drive In on the night of June 11th when the usual manoeuvring lights returned over Hobart at 8pm. The lights looked like stars with red and silver colours. The first light appeared to be travelling across the sky then parted into two lights.

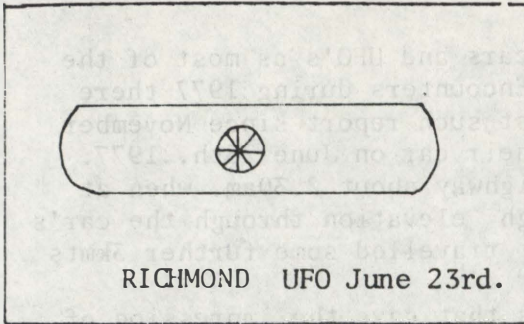
The lights then travelled together, faded and brightened at various times over a prolonged period. The lights came together again and then separated.

The lights were still visible when the family left the Drive In, as they headed north to Bridgewater the lights seemed to be left behind more over the city area, once in the valley towards New Norfolk they lost sight of the lights.

The investigator heard of others seeing the lights at the Drive In, also from an Eastern Shore suburb but a follow-up on full details of these claims was not possible.



## COUNTRY SIGHTINGS



With the easing of sightings about the Hobart suburbs area, a number of scattered sightings occurred in a number of country localities, the first being from Scamander on June 19th.

Our witness was staying at a shack for the weekend and was up in the early hours of the morning when she was given a fright by the brief appearance of a large light to the rear (west) of the shack.

The large circular white light was stationary when first seen then it moved off very fast when she went out the back door. It was out of sight over the hill

to the west, at high speed. It was described as being at tree top height.

### UFO's Over Two Towns.

Two reports of strange lights over New Norfolk and Kempton featured in the media with some detail of lights seen within 30 minutes of each other on the morning of June 22nd.

Mrs. H. Markham was up early about 5am. and viewing the dark sky to the south of New Norfolk. To the left top of her window an object appeared moving down and across her field of vision. The UFO took about a minute to pass from her view. It was hard to tell but the object may have passed in front of Peppermint Hill and gone out, or moved behind the hill.

The UFO was circular but smaller than moon-sized in appearance. It was a glowing white, it seemed to glisten around the edges and have a net like centre.

At 5.35am that morning Mrs M. Ransley of Kempton was getting into her car to go to work when she first noticed a glow over the hill to the east of the town. A large white light then appeared over the hill and ascended to an estimated 35 degree elevation.

Mrs Ransley called her daughter (10) out to see the light, which by now had done a right angle turn and was heading southwards at a slow speed.

Mrs Ransley had to leave for work and kept her eye on the light as she drove south on the Midland Highway to Hobart about 50kmts distant. The light looked about quarter moon-sized, was circular, but had a cone area of light to one side.

At Bagdad 10 kmts south of Kempton, Mrs Ransley stopped her car to look at the light which was slowly getting further to her south east and travelling slightly faster than her car.

She continued on to work in Hobart, periodically glancing at the light until nearing Hobart's northern suburbs, with extra traffic, she did not look for the light until arriving at work. The light was no longer visible, it had been in view for up to 30 minutes.

### A Close Encounter.

Mrs L. Hubbard was returning home to Richmond on June 23rd, the time was 7.30pm when a flashing pinkish light was noticed low over the town ahead, Mrs Hubbard was approaching from the north on the Campania Road. The light was low and had the distant hills behind it. The witness was puzzled by the light which did not appear to be a star as the sky was very overcast.

As she approached Richmond the light seemed to move away to the south a little but became stationary over the town's central block. There was no other traffic around when Mrs Hubbard pulled up her car, wound down the window to look at the UFO now only 100mts away and 30mts above the ground.

The pinkish flashing light was in fact in the centre of a dark shape of rectangular outline. The size was estimated as 3 mts long by 1 metre in height. It just seemed to be floating there.

Mrs Hubbard just gazed at the object for a number of minutes then decided to drive around the block to look for other witnesses, and hopefully to see what the other side of the UFO looked like. As soon as she moved off the UFO went away to the north west and in 30 seconds had vanished. There was no noise and the object travelled away on a level flight.

The witness drove around the block but as she saw no one else, she carried on to her home a short distance south of her previous parking point. Whilst unloading her car she glanced back and was disturbed to see that the UFO had returned and was once again stationary over the town. Mrs Hubbard went inside and awaited the arrival of her husband some 20 minutes later; there was nothing to be seen.

The witness contacted the Airport at once and was advised there had been no aircraft



in the area at the time of the sighting. Mrs. Hubbard proved to be a precise and articulate witness with no previous interest in the UFO phenomena.

## CARS AND UFO's

With sightings beginning to tail off in June it was cars and UFO's as most of the later reports came from motorists. With the drop in Close Encounters during 1977 there had also been a fall in Car Pace incidents, it was the first such report since November 76 when two witnesses told of a row of lights that paced their car on June 25th. 1977.

The witnesses were driving home on Hobart's Brooker Highway about 2.30am. when at the Risdon Roundabout they noticed flashing lights at a high elevation through the car's windscreen. The lights seemed to stay with the car as they travelled some further 3kmts along the highway.

No actual object was seen, just a curved row of lights that gave the impression of being a circle. There appeared to be 6 to 8 lights, each separated by a small gap from the adjoining light. The lights gave the impression of rotating as they flashed yellow and pink-red colours. The lights had an apparent width larger than a full moon.

On leaving the Highway the lights were not noticed until the witnesses stopped at one of their homes. The lights were then seen stationary to the north-west over Elwick. It being late they did not stay up to see what happened next.

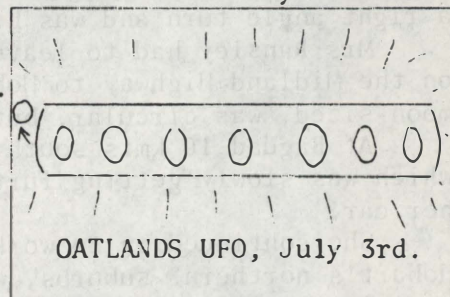
### An Auto Stop?

Our next intriguing report came on July 2nd, this time at 11pm from the Sandfly district south of Hobart; our two witnesses, a twin brother and sister, were out for a drive to the Southern Outlet and back to Kingston.

Heading along Sandfly road to the Southern Outlet M noticed a light in his outside rear vision mirror, it looked a bright red and was 3mts off the ground. M was so surprised by the light's appearance that he veered across the road; he thinks the light was 200mts behind his car.

The next thing was that the car lost power for about 15 to 20 seconds. M says he was travelling at 50kph, then the engine just died; he did not turn off the ignition. He selected first gear and eventually clutch-started the car. Looking back the light had disappeared.

The incident was to be repeated a second time as they climbed up the Southern Outlet hill from Sandfly. However, this time no light was seen. Again the car slowed down, this time M used the ignition key to start the car. The incident left the witnesses shaken.



The car has performed perfectly since the incident.

Another interesting point that came to the Centre's attention was of a second car that also had its engine cut out on the Southern Outlet on June 30th, again for no apparent reason, but again nothing was seen. The similarity with this and so many other sightings cannot be overlooked.

### Oatlands.

Three similar sightings were reported from Oatlands on the evening of July 3rd, although in one instance the Centre was unable to follow up details of what sounded like a very interesting case.

Mrs. M. Pegg was returning home to Oatlands from the East Coast with her 10 year old daughter and was just north of the town at 5.45pm when they sighted the UFO. A long oblong shape was noticed in the south eastern sky, it reminded the witnesses of a neon tube.

Mrs. Pegg could only glance at the object but her daughter was able to keep the bright object in view for a minute. It looked to be a line of about 6 white flashing lights. As far as they could tell the lights just blinked out in a clear sky.

Mrs. Pegg's husband, 1st Class Const. Pegg, saw an almost identical object just 3 hours later when travelling south of Oatlands to Parratah. On leaving Oatlands he saw a strange oblong light to the south east, he pulled up the vehicle and watched the UFO for about another 30 seconds.

The UFO appeared to have flashing lights along the side (see sketch above). He said it looked the apparent size of a match box above the tree line. The object was stationary initially but then moved slowly down and disappeared either behind cloud or the hills. As it moved down, a single white light seemed to leave the UFO and climb away to the north at a 45 deg. angle. The steady light travelled so far then just went out. (Cont. page 10).



## WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

The run of mid-year UFO reports eased as July progressed and sightings from Warrane (July 10th) and Conara (29th) heralded a rest for the Centre's investigators.

The Russels saw a "nocturnal light" at 8.30pm from their Warrane home. The  $\frac{1}{2}$  moon-sized light was seen only briefly as it headed across the tops of the hills near the Drive In. The large white light was flashing on and off and then just disappeared in mid air. It was estimated to be 400mts off the ground.

Mrs. L. Keating, her daughter, and two grandchildren were travelling to Burnie when they sighted a strange object between Conara and Epping Forest; it was 1.30pm on a sunny but partly cloudy afternoon.

A bright silver cylinder moving in an upright position was seen to the north east, hanging from beneath the cylinder was what looked like a rope with a smoke haze around it. Mrs. Keating thought her glasses were playing tricks, so she wound down the car window but the object was still there.

The UFO was below the clouds which were about the 1200 metre level. The object kept the same height and elevation all the time and was at times hidden by patches of trees along the roadside. The family were in a hurry and did not stop to see what the object was doing. Near Epping it moved behind some trees and did not reappear.

It was Ellendale's turn on October 9th as sightings slowed to a stop. The Bannister family returning home at 7.40pm sighted two separate white star-like lights. One light was moving from the west, the other from more to the south west. Both lights looked to be travelling in an erratic manner, veering off near stars then moving back on a track to the north east. The lights were visible for about 5 minutes until they converged in the north east sky and just went out.

### ----- UFO STUDIES DEPARTMENT CREATED IN FRANCE.

The Government-run National Centre of Space Studies (C.N.E.S.) has just created a group to study UFO's (G.E.P.A.N.)

The G.E.P.A.N. which will work on UFO studies, will be managed by Mr. Claude Poher, head of the Science Department at the Space Centre from Toulouse.

Mr. Poher who previously has written several prudent and objective reports about this puzzling problem, will be helped in his task by a number of assistants. In his job, he will be using the facilities from the Toulouse Space Centre to handle the information collected.

The C.N.E.S. management has also decided to form a scientific council, of which the members will be nominated by the Director of C.N.E.S., Mr Hubert Cubien, to determine trends of G.E.P.A.N. and to follow its activities.

Initially, the group managed by Mr. Phoer will define methods which will permit analysis and handling of UFO sightings in a scientific way, after collation and classification. This little group's work will be directly bound to Mr. Jean-Claude Husson, Director of the Space Centre at Toulouse.

Credit Jean Sider, Colombes, France...from "Le Parisien" 2.9.77

**DID YOU KNOW...** The path of a meteor can take any angle relative to the horizon, including parallel. The time can be a few seconds to over 15 seconds as the often described bright ball with a tail streaks across the sky.

Satellite re-entries can appear similar to meteorites but may last up to two minutes crossing the sky. There seem to be a wider range of colours in re-entries, often with mention of light appearing to manoeuvre about each other as they travel across the sky.

Oatlands Cont'd from Page 9.

Later that night an agitated motorist reported to the Oatlands Police that he and his family had encountered a UFO near York Plains. A long white cylinder object had been seen south-east of the road and the sighting had apparently upset the witness. The incident sounds similar with other incidents that night.



SPACEMEN IN WEST WALES (London Sun 18.5.77)  
Credit VUFORS.

It was almost one o'clock on a Saturday morning when a seven foot giant wearing a silver suit blocked the window of Billy and Pauline Coombes' lonely farm cottage. A luminous glow hung around the figure. The head on the massive shoulders had no discernible features. A box shaped helmet framed a dark square area like a blank watch face.

Pauline (32), who saw it first, said nothing to Billy, who was sitting with his back to the window. She was too frightened. A few days earlier she and two of her children had been terrified when a flowing orb followed their car along the track leading to their home - Ripperton Farm, in Dyfed, West Wales. Billy (33), had discussed the incident with Pauline. Now, sitting in their front room, he glanced over his shoulder - and yelled "Good God! What the hell is that."

Pauline says: "We stood trembling, sweating and crying with fright. I phoned the police and Mr Hewison our boss. Then we rushed upstairs to fetch the children from their beds. The dog, which barks at the slightest noise, walked around very agitated but without a whimper. Later it would not go out of the house." Farmer Richard Hewison drove half a mile to the house. He says: "They were genuinely frightened when I arrived."

Josephine, Richard Hewison's 33 year old wife, had an equally terrifying experience shortly before the Coombs saw their spaceman. Josephine who has a B.Sc. degree in agriculture and an honours degree in agricultural botany, says: Richard was up and about the farm. It was 10 to 8 on a bright sunny morning. I went to the bedroom window and saw this thing parked alongside the greenhouse. I wasn't in the least frightened. I just couldn't believe my eyes. I thought, "What on earth is it doing by my greenhouse. It was a silver colour, about 50ft across the base, and shaped like a jelly mould. It was as high as a double decker bus. The greenhouse is 13ft to the eaves but it towered above it. There was no movement. It had no visible windows or openings. I waited for something to emerge. It didn't. It went after 10 minutes. It left no mark. Not even a broken twig."

Teenager Stephen Taylor of Pen-y-cwm Haverfordwest, may have come nearer than any body to one of the figures. Stephen, 18, was walking along a lane bordering RAF Brawdy. He says: "I'd taken my girlfriend home and said goodnight about 9 o'clock. I was walking home when I saw something funny in the sky. A dog came tearing out of the darkness towards me, I called at a friend's house and we talked about seeing a UFO.

Then I walked on. Then I made out a black shape. It looked about 40 to 50ft across. I noticed a dim glow around what seemed to be the underside. Suddenly this figure popped up, right next to me. I was terrified. It was dressed in silver. It seemed to have high cheek bones. Its eyes were like fisheyes - completely round. I took a swing at it and fled. I don't know whether I hit it. I ran three miles home. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said.. "We have heard reports of sightings in the West Wales area. The people who report these sightings are not nutcases. They are sincere people, genuinely concerned. We investigate every report on this assumption. We do not discount the possibility of life in outer space."

TAS. UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE .....  
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Sightings to President on 27 8449 or  
Secretary (evenings) 23 6009.  
Aims: To conduct investigation into Tas-  
manian sightings. To collect and dissem-  
inate evidence and data relating to the  
UFO phenomena. To co-operate with org-  
anisations engaged in similar research.  
Membership: Membership is open to all  
who support the aims of the Centre and  
can assist in furthering its aims.  
Information can be obtained from the  
Secretary or by attending any of the  
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PRINTED in Tasmania by Ready Print Co.,  
165 Harrington Street, Hobart.

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